

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6229

BILL NUMBER: SB 119

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 16, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Covenant Marriage.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Kruse

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines "covenant marriage". It provides that a couple may designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. The bill requires that a marriage license must indicate whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. It establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage.

The bill requires the State Department of Health to maintain records of covenant marriage declarations. The bill also requires the Attorney General to develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The State Department of Health (ISDH) has identified some minimal cost necessary to develop a new form for circuit courts to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage. This provision should be able to be implemented within the existing level of the ISDH resources. The Department has previously estimated that this bill would require approximately \$11,000 for one-time systems revisions required to track and report data regarding covenant marriages.

The Office of the Attorney General (AG) is required to develop the pamphlet providing information on covenant marriage required by the bill. The AG should be capable of developing the pamphlet within the existing level of resources available to the Office. Depending on the extent of the use of the AG's Internet website for the publication of the pamphlet, additional associated printing and postage expenditures are expected to be minimal.

Explanation of State Revenues: The bill is silent regarding the collection of marriage license fees in the case of covenant marriage designations for existing marriages. Currently, the circuit court clerks collect a \$10 marriage license fee that is transferred to the State Treasurer for deposit into the State User Fee Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The county circuit court clerks may incur some additional expenses related to filing covenant marriage designations for existing marriages.

Explanation of Local Revenues: The bill is silent with regard to the collection of marriage certificate fees in the case of covenant marriage designations for existing marriages. Currently, the circuit court clerks collect an \$8 marriage certificate fee for marriages of at least one Indiana resident and \$50 if neither spouse is an Indiana resident.

State Agencies Affected: ISDH; AG.

Local Agencies Affected: Circuit Courts; Circuit Court Clerks.

Information Sources:

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